Entry of foreign tobacco companies into India

8225. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted permission to large foreign tobacco companies to produce products in India;

(b) if so, the details theerof;

(c) the location of such plants;

(d) whether any stipulation been made on the minimum quality of tobacco to be used by such firms;

(e) whether such companies are owned 100% by foreign companies; and

(f) the details of ownership of such foreign tobacco companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (f) Since the announcement of New Industrial Policy, only M/s. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco International Switzerland have been given approval in April, 1993 for setting up a joint venture in India with 50% foreign equity participation amounting to Rs. 23 crores for processing/blending of tobacco and manufacture of 5 billion cigarettes per annum, both for domestic sales and exports at a permissible location in India. The Indian partners of the project are Shri Mahendra K. Modi of M/s. Modi Enterprises and Shri Hemant Sonawala, Deputy Chairman, the Hinditron Group, Bombay. The approval given to the company is subject to the condition that it shall make maximum use of local tobacco. It has been noted that of the total estimated requirement over five years, only 6% of the requirement of tobacco will be imported. The company has projected net tobacco exports of 10,800 tonnes valued US $ 74 million over 5 years.

Reliance Filaments Ltd

8226. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Indian Express, dated 29th April, 1995 under the caption 'Canal disappears on Reliance land, then reappears";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and in what manner Reliance Filaments Ltd. (REL) got its land in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli converted from "agricultural" to "non-agricultural";

(c) whether an inquiry has been held into the matter and the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Reliance Filaments got its land survey No. 366 and 371 converted from agricultural to non-agricultural as per orders passed by the competent authority under section 42 of the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Land Revenue Administration Regulation, 1871. The then Executive Engineer (Irrigation) had certified that no Canal is passing through the survey No. 366 and 371 of Village Kharadpada. RFL has not applied for closure of any canal in the above survey numbers.

Problems of domestic industry

8227. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken till date to solve the problems of the domestic industry especially relating to surcharge in corporate tax and investment incentives;